

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, CM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REF: STATE 198997 (22 AUG 75)

1. ALTHOUGH AS AWARE AS DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY OF PAST SHORTCOMINGS OF ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARD PROGRAM, GURC HAS NOW SENT NOTE TO EMBASSY REQUESTING PROGRAM BE TEMPORARILY CONTINUED AND PROPOSING THREE STUDENTS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1976-77. GURC NOTE IS IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S OWN PROPOSITION (SEPTEMBER 1975), AS SUGGESTED BY DEPARTMENT IN REFTEL, THAT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WE SUBSTITUTE GRANT FOR AMERICAN SPECIALIST TO DESIGN INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION PROGRAM ON SITE IN CAMEROON.

2. EMBASSY NOTE WAS FOLLOWED BY EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PERSONNEL OF PRESIDENCY, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO GURC'S NOTE 16 SEPTEMBER 1974 DESCRIBING PROBLEM OF STUDENTS CHANGING STUDY OBJECTIVES ONCE IN STATES AND ATTEMPTING EXTEND SCHOLARSHIPS AFTER COMPLETING INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION COURSE. WE POINTED OUT AMERICAN SPECIALIST WORKING HERE COULD HELP NOT ONLY DESIGN CURRICULUM BUT ALSO TRAIN STUDENTS, PROBABLY BEING ABLE GIVE THEM MORE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION THAN THEY WOULD RECEIVE IN CLASSES IN STATES. INTERLOCUTORS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD PAST PROBLEMS AND APPEARED AGREE TRAINING PROGRAM IN CAMEROON WOULD BETTER SERVE NEEDS THAN SENDING PERSONNEL ABROAD.

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3. IN RECENT DISUCSSIONS, HOWEVER, IT WAS MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO EMBASSY ANY CHANGE IN STATUS OF THIS PROGRAM WOULD BE STUDIED AND SUBJECT TO DECISION BY PRESIDENT HIMSELF. PROGRAM IS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE IN GURC VIEW, HAVING ORIGINATED IN 1963, AND BECAUSE IT IS RE-GARDED BY GURC AS A MONUMENT TO CAMEROON-US RELATIONS AND REFLECTIVE OF RAPPORT BETWEEN PRESIDENTS OF TWO COUNTRIES.

4. IN ITS NOTE GURC SAYS AS ALTERNATIVE TO SCHOLARSHIPS IT "IS CONSIDERING AS PERMANENT SOLUTION" CREATION OF ECOLE SUPERIEURE DE TRADUCTION ET D'INTERPRETATION WHICH COULD BENEFIT FROM BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

5. IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES TEMPORARY PROGRAM CONTINUATION, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR INCLUDING FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS IN RESPONSE TO GURC:

A. US INSTITUTIONS MAY REQUIRE STUDENTS BE EXAMINED IN CAMEROON PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TO DETERMINE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.

B. SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE VALID FOR MAXIMUM ONE US ACADEMIC YEAR AND NOT RENEWABLE FOR FURTHER EXTENSIONS AT US EXPENSE.

C. STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENROLL ONLY IN THOSE COURSES APPROVED BY THEIR ADVISORS AS NECESSARY FOR OR RELATED TO QUALIFICATION FOR THE INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ENROLLMENT, STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SEND TO GURC PRESIDENCY A LISTING OF THEIR COURSES AND ATTESTATION BY ADVISORS THESE COURSES REQUIRED OR RELATED PREPARATION INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE.

6. GIVEN SUCH HIGH-LEVEL GURC INTEREST IN TEMPORARY CONTINUATION PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT APPROVE AT LEAST TWO OF THREE CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY GURC FOR TERM 76-77. REQUEST REPLY ASAP.
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